

We believe we may with confidence take some little credit to ourselves for the result, but in doing so we would carefully avoid throwing the slightest discredit on the official referees, even should their instructions go the length asserted; we rather praise them for their uprightness in showing a change in opinion, when time and more lengthened consideration had altered their views.

The first award by which this question is set at rest relates to certain new houses in Cranbourne-street, Leicester-square, now in course of completion. The district surveyor objected that a continuous line of entablature had been put up without the interposition of incombustible material, as required by the Act. The builder replied that the houses were commenced last year, and that the plans and elevations approved of at that time, shewed they were designed for shops. The award, dated April 4th, was, "that inasmuch as before the 1st day of January, 1845, the houses to which the shop-fronts in question belong were commenced, and such shop-fronts formed part of the original design for the said houses, the provisions of the said Act which relate to wooden shop-fronts do not apply to the shop-fronts in question." With regard to the costs, £1. 11s., they considered "that as the case was one of reasonable doubt," the same should be paid by the district surveyor and builder jointly.

In another case, as to two shops in the Norland-road, Shepherd's Bush, projected from the front wall, the district surveyor objected that the party-walls to the projections were built of bricknogging, and were not carried up above the lead flat; that the cornices and other woodwork had not the required incombustible materials between each house, and that the water dripped from the flat on to the public way. The builder shewed that the houses were formerly private; that plans to convert them into shops, bringing out the fronts to the line of other buildings, were made in the autumn of last year; that the framework was put up before the 1st of January, and that the cornice and other parts were prepared although not fixed. In this case the referees would make no award except to the effect that the shop-fronts must be supplied with gutters and pipes, to prevent the water from dripping on the public way, and that the costs, £1. 6s. 8d., and 2s. to the district surveyor, should be paid by the builder.

Then again, as to a bow-window in Lyndhurst-road, St. Giles's, Camberwell, commenced before the Act came into operation. It was formed of wood, and though not fixed before the 1st of January, was intended and prepared for. The award was, "that inasmuch as the bow-window in question is an addition to a house newly built, or now building, but 'already built,' within the meaning of the said Act, and forms part of the original design thereof, the said bow-window does not fall within the provisions of the said Act, as regards the original erection or building thereof." And in this case they did not call for any costs from either party.

We need say no more on this subject.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE COVE OF CORK.

We are glad to hear that great improvements are contemplated at Cove by Lord Middleton, under the direction of Mr. Decimus Burton. The execution of them will be intrusted to Sir Thomas Deane and Mr. Kearne Deane, and could not be in better hands. We are glad that Lord Middleton has determined to take advantage of the talents of gentlemen who have been engaged in so many undertakings of importance, to employ artisans and labourers, enhance the worth of his own property, and impart additional attractions to the place.

The work, according to Mr. Burton's plan, will consist of an esplanade 2,000 feet in length, on a new quay in continuation of Mr. Smith-Barry's, divided from a new road by chisins, &c.—a crescent and several ranges to be laid out for new buildings, with provision for terraces, hotels, baths, and all that can contribute to comfort or convenience.

We hope this example may be followed by other proprietors similarly circumstanced. Rumour says his lordship intends to spend 40,000*l.* in the improvements.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

IMPARTIAL STATEMENT OF FACTS.

ALL who are interested in antiquarian pursuits, who desire to prevent the injuries to which our ancient national monuments may be threatened, to spread abroad a correct taste for archaeology and a just appreciation of monuments of ancient art, so as to secure a general interest in their preservation, must be grieved to learn that the dissensions in the association are in an way healed. There are two central committees, two societies, and two journals; and if it be true that a house divided against itself cannot stand, the Archaeological Association seems doomed to fall.

There are, unquestionably, faults on both sides; great faults: the original cause of quarrel is trumperty in the extreme, and it is not just, it is not creditable,—that an association likely to effect much good, a large body of individuals bound together to advance an important object which is not at all implicated in the squabble, should be wrecked on such a wind-bag, overset by a sputter, raised entirely by the officers in command, and to meet which they have actually steered the vessel out of the right way.

Mr. Wright, the founder of the association, and one of the sub-committee appointed to edit the society's "Journal," produced, in his own name and irrespective of the association, a work called the "Archæological Album," which was to consist of six parts, and to be published at intervals of two months. This act of Mr. Wright was objected to in the committee by some members, on the ground that Mr. Wright's connection with the journal being known, and from the similarity of the title, the public would be led to consider the album also authorized by the society; further, Mr. Wright being in reality the editor of the society's journal, although his name did not so appear, it was thought he would be likely to use the best communications for his own work, and would give more of his time to it than to theirs, for which he received nothing, not even the credit of being the editor, and so that the journal would suffer. And it was therefore suggested, that notice should be given, that no publication but the journal was authorized by the society. When it was shewn on the other side, however (by those who thought the committee had no right to interfere), that this album was to be written wholly by Mr. Wright himself, and would, in reality, assist in advancing the objects of the association, by inducing a taste for the study of antiquities in many who before had not engaged in them, a resolution moved on the subject was withdrawn, and the matter dropped.

A few days afterwards, however, the subject was brought up in the Printing committee, at which meeting five out of the six members constituting it were present, including Mr. Wright and Mr. C. R. Smith, one of the honorary secretaries, when the two latter resigned, and a notice in the name of the central committee was ultimately sent to all the members by the remaining three, containing an intimation that the journal was "the only publication issued under the authority of the central committee."

Now to this intimation, if the committee had really resolved to issue it, no reasonable objection could be taken; it was a perfectly legitimate notification, indeed seemed to be called for. But that it should be made by a sub-committee of three in the name of the central committee, who had decided, virtually, that it should not be made, afforded very reasonable ground of complaint to those who agreed in that decision, and dissension was of course the result.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Smith had been induced to withdraw their resignations as members of the Printing sub-committee, and had taken their places, when a resolution was moved in the central committee and passed, calling on the former gentleman again to resign. This it seems he at once expressed his willingness to do, but ill feeling had been engendered, unanimity could not be obtained, the president, Lord Albert Conyngham, resigned solely from a sense of what his lordship considered "the extreme injustice done to Mr. Wright;" and, to make a long story short (for doubtless many of our readers have watched all the proceedings, and

have already said, "a plague on both your houses"), various members of the association out of the committee, aware that the real business of the society was virtually at a standstill, and not well informed of the exact state of things, addressed a requisition to Mr. Pettigrew, the treasurer, calling on him to summon a general meeting of the association. Without submitting the requisition to the central committee (and this was a great mistake), the treasurer prepared to comply with it, and caused the meeting to be advertised in the public prints.

In the meantime a special meeting of the central committee, called by Mr. Albert Way, the other honorary secretary, was held, and a resolution passed, denying the authority of the treasurer, or any other officer of the association, to call this general meeting, and declaring any proceedings of such meeting null and invalid. This was assented to by thirteen members of the committee out of twenty-two, and the association generally then first saw that the majority of the committee were opposed to Mr. Wright and his friends.

Notwithstanding this protest, however, very short notice, and an inclement night, 150 members or more met, in pursuance of the treasurer's summons, on the 5th of March; and by resolutions (passed unanimously in five cases, and with five dissentients in one), re-organized the association, and appointed a fresh committee, including a certain number of the old committee, and who have since received a considerable number of subscriptions.

The other section of the old committee have elected new members, making in the whole twenty-one, have issued an abstract of proposed rules and regulations, "under which the association will hereafter be conducted," and have announced that the next annual congress will be held at Winchester in the ensuing September.

We have thus laid before our readers a brief statement of the principal facts without favour or reserve, leaving them to exercise their own judgment upon them. To establish the right of a minority of a committee to throw themselves at any time on the general body, would tend to embarrass the government of most societies. And it is probable, even in this case, that several who signed the requisition for the general meeting, would have refrained from doing so had they been aware there was a clear majority of the committee in favour of one course. Still the present is not an ordinary case, since we find the two founders of the association, one of them the honorary secretary, the president to whom so much was owing at Canterbury, the treasurer, and the most active members of the committee, in the minority.

We have the pleasure of knowing the majority of both committees, and are able to assert, that more honourable men could not be found, but at the same time we know from the constitution of some of them, that unless there be interference from without, no junction will be effected, and the great objects of the association will greatly suffer. Already, as we understand, some of the authorities at Winchester have refused their assistance at the contemplated meeting, and many persons who were warm supporters of the one association, now hold back because there are two. What we would advise, is, that some influential members of the society who have taken no part in the past proceedings, should at once bestir themselves, and by conference with the two committees, endeavour to remove asperities and effect a junction. We are disposed to think they would succeed, for the greater number of both parties must by this time be heartily ashamed of the cause of quarrel. Never was such a tangled web hung on a more trumperty peg.

CATHEDRAL OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—Consequent upon the erection of New Brunswick into an independent bishopric, under the new episcopal superintendence of the Right Rev. Dr. Medley, the bishop elect, a cathedral is to be forthwith commenced at St. John's, the architectural preparations for which have been intrusted to Mr. Frank Wills, of Exeter. The cathedral will pretend to nothing more than a large parish church. The plan has been adopted from the church of St. Mary, Snettisham, Norfolk, which is a specimen of the present decorated architecture.